

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for automatically displaying data objects on a computer display device comprising:

5 dynamically populating the display device with at least one of the data objects;

wherein the dynamic population of the display device comprises automatically arranging the position of displayed data objects based on a priority associated with each data object; and

10 wherein automatically arranging the position of the displayed data objects comprises filling available space on the computer display device with the data objects in order of higher priority to lower priority, with lower priority data objects being displayed only when available space exists on the computer display device.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the priority associated with each data object is based on a pre-designated priority list.

20 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the priority associated with each data object is changeable.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the dynamic population of the display device is automatically and dynamically updated when a priority associated with a data object is changed.

25 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the priority associated with each data object is configured via a user interface.

30 6. The system of claim 3 wherein the priority associated with each data object is automatically determined based upon a frequency of use for each data object.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the dynamic population of the display device further comprises not displaying data objects that do not contain data.

5 8. The system of claim 1 wherein data comprising each data object is changeable.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the dynamic population of the display device is automatically and dynamically updated when the data 10 comprising a data object is changed.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein the data objects are editable via a user interface.

15 11. The system of claim 8 wherein the data objects are added via a user interface.

12. The system of claim 8 wherein the data objects are deleted via a user interface.

20 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the data objects are stored in at least one electronic database.

25 14. The system of claim 1 wherein the available space on the computer display device is adjustable.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the dynamic population of the display device is automatically and dynamically updated when the available space on the computer display device is adjusted.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the available space on the computer display device is adjusted automatically.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the available space on the computer display device is adjusted via a user interface.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein the dynamic population of the display device further comprises automatically arranging the position of displayed data objects in a single column.

19. The system of claim 1 wherein the dynamic population of the display device further comprises automatically arranging the position of displayed data objects in at least one column.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein a number of columns for displaying data objects is determined by automatically computing the number of columns that will fit within the available space on the computer display device.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the width of each column is fixed.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the width of each column is automatically determined by computing the minimum width required for displaying prioritized data objects in each column.

23. The system of claim 1 wherein each displayed data object has an associated action button selectable via a user interface for performing specific actions relative to each displayed data object.

24. The system of claim 1 wherein a picture representing the displayed data objects is displayed on the computer display device.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the picture is chosen via a user interface.

26. The system of claim 24 wherein the picture has an associated priority, and wherein the picture is displayed only when available space exists on the computer display device after displaying all higher priority data objects.

27. A computer-implemented process for automatically displaying contact information for contacts in an electronic address book, comprising:

10        selecting a contact in the electronic address book via a user interface;

      dynamically displaying at least one individual element of the contact information for the selected contact based on a priority associated with each individual element of the contact information; and

      automatically arranging the position of the individual elements of the contact information for filling an available space on the computer display device with the individual elements of the contact information in order of higher priority to lower priority, with lower priority elements of the contact information being displayed only when available space exists on the computer display device.

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20        28. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 wherein the priority associated with each individual element of the contact information is automatically assigned to each element.

25        29. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 wherein the priority associated with each individual element of the contact information is manually assigned to each element via the user interface.

30        30. The computer-implemented process of claim 28 wherein the priority assigned to each individual element of the contact information is editable via the user interface.

31. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 wherein individual elements of the contact information are not dynamically displayed regardless of priority if the individual elements of the contact information are not populated.

5 32. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising automatically populating at least one of the individual elements of the contact information from data in an electronic database.

10 33. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising manually populating at least one of the individual elements of the contact information via the user interface.

15 34. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising editing at least one of the individual elements of the contact information via the user interface.

20 35. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising dynamically updating the arrangement of the individual elements of the contact information when any of the individual elements of the contact information is changed.

25 36. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising dynamically updating the arrangement of the individual elements of the contact information when any of the priorities associated with any of the individual elements of the contact information is changed.

37. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising adjusting the available space on the computer display device.

38. The computer-implemented process of claim 28 further comprising dynamically updating the arrangement of the individual elements of the contact information when the available space on the computer display device is adjusted.

5 39. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 wherein the individual elements of the contact information are automatically arranged in at least one column on the computer display device.

10 40. The computer-implemented process of claim 39 wherein the number of columns on the computer display device is automatically determined based on a width of the available space on the computer display device.

15 41. The computer-implemented process of claim 39 wherein a width of each column is automatically determined based on a minimum width of the individual elements of the contact information that are automatically arranged in each column.

20 42. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising: associating at least one action button with each individual element of the contact information; wherein each action button is selectable via the user interface; and wherein each action button automatically initiates a predetermined computer-implemented process relative to the individual element of the contact information associated with each action button.

25 43. The computer-implemented process of claim 27 further comprising automatically displaying an image for representing the contact in the electronic address book selected via the user interface.

30 44. The computer-implemented process of claim 43 wherein the image has an associated priority, and wherein the image is only displayed if sufficient

available space exists on the computer display device after displaying all higher priority individual elements of the contact information.

45. A computer-readable medium having computer executable  
5 instructions for dynamically displaying a subset of at least one data element from  
a set of data elements on a computer display device, said computer executable  
instructions comprising:

assigning a priority to each data element;  
10 sorting the data elements in order of highest priority to lowest priority; and  
automatically arranging and displaying as many of the data elements as  
will fit within a display area on the computer display device in order of highest  
priority to lowest priority, and wherein the displayed data elements comprise the  
displayed subset of at least one data element.

15 46. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein assigning a  
priority to each data element comprises using a predefined priority list to prioritize  
each data element.

20 47. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein assigning a  
priority to each data element comprises prioritizing each data element via a user  
interface.

25 48. The computer-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the predefined  
priority list is editable via a user interface, and wherein the display of data  
elements is dynamically updated when the predefined priority list is edited.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the data  
elements are editable, and wherein the display of data elements is dynamically  
updated when any of the data elements are edited.

50. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein data elements are added to the set of data elements, and wherein the display of data elements is dynamically updated when data elements are added to the set of data elements.

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51. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein data elements are deleted from the set of data elements, and wherein the display of data elements is dynamically updated when data elements are deleted from the set of data elements.

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52. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the display area on the computer display device is adjustable, and wherein the display of data elements is dynamically updated when the display area on the computer display device is adjusted.

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53. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein data elements are displayed in at least one column within the display area of the computer display device, and wherein the number of columns is automatically determined based on a width of the display area.

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54. The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein each column has a variable width that is automatically determined based upon a minimum width necessary to display the data elements in at each column.

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55. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein at least one action button is displayed adjacent to each displayed data element, and wherein each action button is capable of initiating computer executable instructions when selected via a user interface.

56. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the displayed subset of data elements is automatically color-coded based on a pre-designated category for describing the set of data elements.

5 57. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the displayed subset of data elements is automatically shaded based on a pre-designated category for describing the set of data elements.